

COUNTYWIDE TRUNKED RADIO SYSTEM

UPDATE - August, 2000

Infrastructure nears completion; tests slated

Four of the Countywide Trunked Radio System's six tower sites have been fully installed, optimized, and functionally tested, as the Countywide Trunked Radio System rapidly approaches the Acceptance Test Plan (ATP) phase. The ATP, jointly developed by the Trunked Radio Negotiating Team, Evans and Associates, and Motorola, provides for specific system reliability testing within every one square mile grid of the county.

To date, the system equipment at Waukesha, Nashotah, Town of Delafield (Lapham Peak), and Menomonee Falls, has been installed, wired, completely optimized, and functionally tested. Work at the remaining sites, in New Berlin and the Village of Eagle, continues, and the sites are projected to be ATP-ready by about September 1, 2000.

Construction efforts to bring the system to its current level of completion was extensive. It included the following:

- **Waukesha:** A new electrical supply and grounding system was installed, and system controllers, base stations, and antenna work has been completed. A new System Management Center (SMC), used to administer and track the system's functions, has also been completed. The equipment is located at the County Radio Services Facility. The site is now ready for Acceptance Plan Testing (ATP).

- **Nashotah:** A new equipment shelter, site controller, base stations, grounding system, and antenna system were installed at the County's Northwest Transportation and Sheriff Substation. New electrical power and high speed data services were installed to serve the site. The site is now ATP-ready.

- **Town of Delafield:** While the new State of Wisconsin tower slated for System use has been delayed by Federal Endangered Species Act issues, the Trunked Radio Steering Committee has approved use of the existing nearby State of Wisconsin-owned WHAD-FM tower as an interim site. The temporary installation is designed to perform virtually identically to the permanent site. Since waiting for completion of the permanent site would have resulted in the entire project being delayed by over a year, the interim plan, and its approximate \$45,000 cost, became a necessity and was approved by the Trunked Radio Steering Committee.

(turn to "System Progress" on reverse side)

User radio orders finalized

Charter member user radio order counts have been received and finalized. In aggregate, orders included every model of radio offered, with the large majority being financed by Waukesha County.

An order deadline of July 21, 2000 was required to permit any necessary adjustments to be made to the County's Capital Project request. This is necessary because major increases in the number or type of radios will require the approval of additional appropriations by the County Board for radio equipment purchases and financing. The requirement to purchase a certain number of radios from the vendor in order to secure fixed equipment for a sixth tower site and additional discounts was not a concern. Final totals, at 3100 units, indicate that these minimum levels will easily be achieved.

On June 28, 2000, the Trunked Radio Steering Committee approved the availability of an additional model portable radio, the Motorola MTS-2000 Model I. The unit, which was requested by several agencies, is similar to the already-available MTS-2000 Model II, but with a top display, no keypad, and fewer talkgroups. Feature and cost information on this radio was distributed to users immediately after the Committee's action.

A number of "new old stock" Motorola MCS-2000 mobile radios also became available to users through a third-party vendor, who also offered independent financing or leasing arrangements. The radios, two to three years old, are reportedly unused but are out of warranty. The system vendor, Motorola, researched the units and on August 15, 2000, issued a statement that the radios, as originally shipped, would work on the Waukesha countywide trunked system.

A workgroup, consisting of both municipal and County members, is being established to evaluate various factors, including the units' functionality and reliability, and the financial implications of substituting these units for new units. It will determine if these units will be approved for use on the countywide trunked radio system. The approved "Trunked Radio Services Agreement" calls for radios on the system to be purchased only if they are certified for use on the system. Although the final radio orders have been submitted by users, these orders will not be placed with the vendor immediately. Rather, orders will be placed approximately every quarter, and will be coordinated with users at the appropriate time.

Charter member talkgroup requests solicited

To permit the development of a countywide talkgroup plan, user agencies have been asked to submit their initial talkgroup requests. A key feature of trunked radio is that talkgroups - the trunked equivalent of individual, private radio channels - are available as needed to users.

During the week of August 21, 2000, Waukesha County Radio Services sent each municipality's designee a "Trunked Radio Talkgroup Request Form." The form, accompanied by instructions, may be copied as needed, and should be distributed to each user agency. Each form has contact information should users have questions regarding the form.

The intent of the forms is to establish the talkgroup needs of each participating agency, and to determine security and privacy requirements on a by-talkgroup basis. While some agencies may not migrate to the system for over a year, it is necessary to have in place a systemwide plan, known as a "Fleet Map," when the first users migrate to the system. This will also minimize the need to reprogram user radios in the future, thus reducing costs for system radio users.

Completing the requests forms will not preclude users from expanding their talkgroup usage later, but is important to complete system programming. System users are asked to return their completed talkgroup requests to Waukesha County no later than September 30. Any users with questions are encouraged to contact Chris Petterson at (262) 548-7600.

Charter Members' Payment Schedule clarified

The "Trunked Radio Services Agreement," approved and signed by the system's Charter Members, spells out the terms of users' payments. However, to answer several recent questions received, Sean Sander, Business Manager for the Waukesha County Department of Administration offers the following review:

Infrastructure Cost Repayment Section 2.1 of the Trunked Radio Services Agreement, titled "Payment of the Infrastructure Costs by Initial Members" indicates that payments on the infrastructure notes are due January 31st of each year, commencing in 2000, with a final payment due in 2008.

User Radio Equipment Repayment These payments apply to members who are financing their portable, mobile radio and console conversion purchases through Waukesha County. Section 2.3 of the Trunked Radio Services Agreement, titled "Payment of Radio Equipment Costs," indicates that payments of radio equipment financed by the County will be due January 31st of each year, with the first payment due on 1/31/2001. Final radio equipment payment will be invoiced on 12/31/2008, with a due date of 1/31/2009, as the Trunked Radio Services Agreement terminates on January 1, 2009.

Operating Cost Payments Section 3.2 of the Trunked Radio Services Agreement, titled, "Payment of Operating Costs," indicates that payments of operating costs are due January 31st of each year, with a final payment due on January 31, 2008. A January 24, 2000 letter from the County to users explained that the 2000 payment, which was due 1/31/2000, has been deferred to 10/1/00, with a due date of 10/31/00. This one-time occurrence is the result of most expenses being delayed until the second half of the year.

Equipment Promissory Notes to be released

Users financing their mobile and portable radio equipment through Waukesha County should plan to act on the Promissory Note associated with the financing. The note, titled "Payment of Radio Equipment Costs," will be distributed for user approval in early to mid-October.

The approved and signed document will be due no later than December 1, 2000, so that users can be invoiced. The first payment is due January 31, 2001.

System Progress (cont'd. from page 1)

The Lapham Peak site's infrastructure equipment will be relocated to the new site when it becomes available in late 2001.

■ **Menomonee Falls:** The tower and shelter, owned by U.S. Cellular, are located in Menomonee County Park. Renegotiation of their lease with Waukesha County resulted in trunked system use of the site at no additional cost to charter members. The site is now ATP-ready.

■ **New Berlin:** A new shelter and tower were installed at the City of New Berlin-owned location. This site is expected to be ATP-ready by September 1, 2000.

■ **Village of Eagle:** This site is slated to be optimized and tested late August or the beginning of September. At this writing, all equipment is in place, with only final optimization and adjustments yet to be performed, though the site is expected to be ATP-ready by September 1, 2000.

When all sites are brought ATP-ready, the Acceptance Test Plan will be implemented, in which coverage reliability throughout the County will be field tested. Additionally, a thirty-day customer test will commence, and punchlist items will be resolved. After the system passes all tests, plans call for non public-safety users to begin migration to the system during the fourth quarter of 2000..

Any non public-safety (other than Police, Fire or EMS) agencies which are interested in migrating to trunked operation during 2000 should contact Chris Petterson at (262) 548-7600.

*The Trunked Radio System Update newsletter is distributed by Waukesha County Radio Services,
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